ART OF CARICATURE

EVOLUTION AND INFLUENCE OF THE NEWSPAPER CARTOON.

The Ancient Greeks, Romans and Egyptians Used Grotesque Pictures to Emphasize Their Satire—The Eighteenth Century Craze.

The story is told of an abbe of the seventeenth century who was as deformed in figure as he was ridiculous in dress, and as sensitive about his physical deformity as he was vain of his eccentric attire, that while serving mass one morning he observed a smile of contempt on the face of one of the courtiers present and determined to avenge himself by serving a process upon him for appearance in court the following day.

The offender, M. de Lasson by name, knowing that things would go hard with him unless he could show some reason for his mirth, made a hasty sketch of the hunchback abbe, exaggerating in size the six black caps and the waistcoats in which he was wont to appear, and when he was solemnly asked to show cause for his unseemly mirth and indignity to the holy church he suddenly displayed before his judges the caricature of the abbe as his "excuse." The likeness was so excellent and the cartoon so grotesque that the entire court fell to laughing, and the accused was liberated without a reprimand.

This is the first authentic case of the power of the cartoon in a hall of justice, but it illustrates the power of the pencil in depicting the follies of the foolish and the affectations of the artificial.

There is no telling when the art of caricature began. There are a number of grotesques that have come down to us from earliest Egyptian times. The Greeks employed pictures to emphasize their satire, and so did the Romans. All through the middle ages there were numberless examples of "grotesqueries" which, curiously enough, were used in enforcing the doctrines of the church by means of satirizing the devil. But the eighteenth century was the heyday of the cartoon.

Beginning in France and overrunning into Holland and thence across the channel into England, the flood of caricaturists carried everything before it, and it is safe to say that we read the history of the times with clearer vision and with more accuracy of detail for the mirror which caricaturists held up to reflect the striking peculiarities of the men and events passing before it.

Gautier mentions a Spanish cartoonist, Francisco Gaya y Lucientes, a mixture of Rembrandt, Watteau and Rabelais, who preceded the two great caricaturists of the latter half of the eighteenth century, George Cruikshank in England and M. Charlet in France. Charlet is known as the father of modern social caricature and holds as good title to his position as does Philipon to that of the father of comic journalism, with Le Charivari, the strongest paper of its kind. Then came Punch in England, which still retains its subtitle of the London Charivari, for years the faithful if not the most highly polished reflecter of British life. Upon its staff John Leech, Richard Doyle, John Fenniel, George du Maurier and a dozen men of lesser name kept Great Britain in good humor for two generations.

It has been reserved for America, however, to bring forth a new race of caricaturists, which for lack of a better title may be called the personal cartoonists, men who seize upon the characteristics of an individual and so exaggerate them that the subjects of the cartoons are known by the most prominent features in their physical, mental or moral makeup.

True there was one man in London a hundred years ago, Gilray by name, who had this faculty of dissecting his subject until he found his weakest point and then unmercifully pricking it with his drawing pencil, but with him the race died out, to be reincarnated in America. Gilray was a close observer of people and events. He would sit in his publisher's window and watch the fops of the court as they passed and fasten in his memory every feature by which a man would be recognized by his acquaintances. He remembered every story that related to the traits of character of those in the public eye, and the St. James street of 1800 is faithfully reproduced in his art.

Perhaps we Americans look at the droll side of life more than other people, but certain it is we have more and better cartoonists than elsewhere. The very quickness with which we see the point of a joke demands equal facility in portraying drollery in a cartoon. We sketch boldly and leave much of the unnecessary detail to our slower cousins. Then, too, our public events happen with such startling rapidity that a cartoon of yesterday's doings would be flat today, and we must keep very much alive and be ready for a political change overnight.

In other words, the alert American must have depicted in his cartoon the very traits of character that have made him what he is, the quickest and brightest of men.—Thomas Nast in New York News.

A FORCED SALE.

Frith's Purchase of His Own Portrait Painted by Himself.

Here is the astonishing history of one of Frith's own portraits painted by himself. The celebrated R. A. had entirely forgotten its existence until a friend entered his studio one morning and asserted that a capital picture of himself was on view in a small shop in Great Portland street. "It's not a bit like what you are now," observed the friend, "but it may have resembled you some years ago. Go and look at it."

Mr. Frith went and found his own image after an estrangement of forty-five years. He determined to buy it, though he had not the faintest recollection of having painted it. "Ah, a portrait!" said Frith to the woman in charge of the shop after he had pretended to examine several other works. "Whose likeness is that?" "That," said the lady, "is a portrait of the celebrated artist, Frith, painted by himself." "Why, he must be an elderly man," put in the artist. The woman remarked that he was young once. "Humph!" quoth the genial W. P. F. "Not much of a picture."

To this the woman demurred and asked £20 for the canvas. It was Frith's turn to appear surprised. "Well," replied the shopkeeper without moving a muscle, "it cost us nearly as much. We shall make a very small profit. You see, it is very valuable because the artist is deceased!" "Deceased!" exclaimed the astonished painter. "Dead, do you mean?" "Yes, sir; died of drink. My husband attended the funeral."

Frith bought the picture, but did not revive for some time.—Chambers' Journal.

Ages of Birds.

Among birds the swan lives to be the oldest, in extreme cases reaching 300 years. The falcon has been known to live 162 years. An eagle died in 1819 which had been caught 104 years before and was then quite old. A white headed vulture, which was caught in 1706, died in the aviary at Schonbrun, near Vienna, in 1824. Parrots live more than a century. Water birds have a long life, exceeding that of several generations of men. Ravens also live over a hundred years.

In captivity magpies live from twenty to twenty-five years, and still longer in freedom. The common hen attains the age of from fifteen to twenty years. Doves live ten years and the little singing birds from eight to seventeen years. The nightingale's life is the shortest, ten years being the longest, and next comes the blackbird, which never lives longer than fifteen years.

A Tough Steak.

"On the other side of the Rio Grande," said a traveler, "meat is cheap, but the best cuts of Mexican beef are tougher than rhinoceros hide. When I first went to Mexico, I ordered a tenderloin at a hotel in Durango, but I couldn't cut it to save my neck. I told the waiter it wouldn't do, and he removed it.

"Presently, however, he returned, accompanied by the proprietor of the hotel, and laid the platter on the table. 'What's the matter with the steak?' asked the hotel man in Spanish. 'Tough,' said I. 'Why, I can hardly stick a fork into it—much less a knife.'

"Mine host flapped it over with the flat of the knife and eyed it dubiously. 'I'm sorry,' he said, 'but it's the best in the house. At any rate, I can't take it back. It's bent.'"

NATURAL HISTORY.

A whale can remain under water for an hour and a half.

A lion in a jungle will jump twenty-five or thirty feet from a standing start.

A horsefly will live for hours after its head has been pulled off. The head of the mosquito hawk will continue eating its victim when separated from the thorax.

Mud wasps manifest great ingenuity not only in building their nests, but in placing them in localities where they will not be injured by rain or predacious animals.

The gray buzzard is said to be the heaviest bird that flies, the young males when food is plentiful weighing nearly forty pounds. The bird is nearly extinct.

The wasp, like the bee and almost every other insect, is infested with parasites. Wasps have been captured which had two or three dozen parasites clinging to their bodies.

The alligator never leaves fresh water, while the crocodile often goes to sea and in the West Indies has sometimes been found many miles from land, heading directly for an island, possibly out of sight.

The Tyranny of Trivial Things.

The great emotional experiences of life are belittled by the same insistence upon the trivial. Life and love look into each other's eyes, a man and woman elect each other from all the world, but the joyful solemnity of marriage is ruffled by the details of the wedding, perhaps by family squabbles over flowers and gowns and invitations. Or great death comes in at the door, and the little human soul, overwhelmed with grief, appalled by the sudden opening of eternity before its eyes, yet fusses (there is no other word for it) over "mourning," over the width of the hem of the veil or the question of crape buttons or dull jet. This may be shocking or mournful or ludicrous, as one happens to look at it, but it is certainly uncivilized.—Harper's Bazar.

Pat's Test.

A good story is told of an Irishman, more patriotic than clever, who enlisted in one of the smart cavalry regiments. The fencing instructor had experienced rather a difficult job in the matter of explaining to him the various ways of using the sword. "Now," he said, "how would you use the sword if your opponent feinted?" "Be-dad," said Pat, with gleaming eyes, "I'd just tickle him with the point to see if he was shamming."—St. James Gazette.

RELICS OF EARLY DAYS.

Rail Fences and Dugout Canoes Survive Civilization's March.

One of the remarkable features of country life in America is the singular persistence of the rail fence and the dugout canoe. No matter how thickly settled a section may become or how long it may have been settled, these two survivors of early settlement linger on as stubbornly as ever. Today in the thickest settled parts of New England and New York the rail fence is met with, while the shad fishermen of the Potomac and James rivers and Chesapeake bay, on the banks of which the first English settlements in America were established, still manufacture and employ the old dugout canoe in making the rounds of their shad nets.

The dugout canoe is the simplest and most primitive water craft known and was used by prehistoric man, both in this country, Europe and Asia. It is made out of a log of wood by trimming the outside down to the proper proportions of a boat and by "digging out" the inside with an adz and by the aid of fire. The Potomac river dugout is today pretty much the same as it was in the days of Powhatan and differs from the general run of dugout canoes in the absence of a curved bow and stern and in having rather high sides, which rise to a summit from either end of the boat, being highest in the middle, where the seat is placed.—Washington Post.

Canny In Second Engagement.

For years a young man and young woman had been engaged, and each had economized with a view of having the more to spend when they should marry. Six months ago, however, the engagement was broken, and shortly afterward the young woman became the fiancee of another man. This man she encourages to spend his money lavishly—on her. He has bought her beautiful silver for her toilet table, the latest design and engraved with her initials; a handsome leather traveling bag completely fitted out, rugs, books and other articles to make home comfortable.

"No more economizing for me," says the girl. "If he invests so much in me, we won't be so likely to quarrel, and certainly he will not have the money to spend on another girl," which is the wisdom that rules sentiment in these modern days.—New York Press.

Those Dull Ducks.

I recall Mr. Lowell telling, jocosely, in an after dinner speech in Cambridge how he met an acquaintance (of dubious standing) whose cheerful face and happy demeanor led him to ask the cause of such exuberant felicity.

"Why," said the genial smiler, "I've discovered a way to make my fortune. We all know that the reason for the fine flavor of the wild duck is the wild celery on which it feeds. Now, I propose to feed it to the domestic duck and supply the market."

Some weeks later, on meeting his acquaintance again, Mr. Lowell found him quite depressed and inconsolable. "Why are you looking so unhappy? I thought the last time I saw you that you were on the point of making your fortune with ducks. Wouldn't it work?"

"No," was the reply; "the things won't eat it."—Atlantic.

Tartly Answered.

The principal of a certain high school tells a joke on himself with much enjoyment. One day during an examination, when he was visiting the various rooms, he stopped to ask a very bright boy a sum in algebra, and, although the problem was comparatively easy, he could not answer it. The principal remarked with some show of severity:

"My boy, you ought to be able to do that. At your age George Washington was a surveyor."

The boy looked him straight in the eye and answered:

"Yes, sir, and at your age he was president of the United States."

The conversation dropped at that point.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Men and Apes.

Were it not, as Huxley says, that "the ignorance of the so called educated classes is colossal," there might be need for apology in restatement of the fact that man is not descended from the ape. The relationship between them is lateral, not lineal, both being offshoots of the same stock, but each remaining, of course in very different degrees of development, isolated groups of mammals.—Edward Clodd's "Thomas Henry Huxley."

A Pair of Them.

He—The great trouble with Gabley is that he talks too much.

She—That's strange! When he has been with me, he scarcely said a word.

He—Oh, he is too much of a gentleman to interrupt.

Each decision you make, however trifling it may be, will influence every decision you will have to make however important it may be.

OFFICIAL CALL SUMMIT COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

The Democrats of Summit county will meet in delegate convention Saturday, June, 14, 1902, at 10 o'clock a. m., of said day in Walsh block, in the city of Akron, for the purpose of placing in nomination:

One Sheriff.
One Treasurer.
One Probate Judge.
One Clerk of Court of Common Pleas.
One Recorder.
One Commissioner.
One Coroner.
One Infirmary Director.

Said convention will also select delegates to the State convention and transact such other business as it may deem proper.

The delegates to said convention shall be chosen at caucuses to be held in the respective wards and townships in said county, Friday evening, June 13, 1902, at the places hereinafter designated, and the representation in said convention shall be apportioned as follows: Being one delegate for every fifty votes or fraction thereof of the vote of said ward or township for James Kilbourne for Governor in 1901.

First ward, Central engine house, 6 delegates.
Second ward, No. 2 engine house, 5 delegates.
Third ward, Barnett's livery barn, 9 delegates.
Fourth ward, booth at corner Howard and Beach sts., 7 delegates.
Fifth ward, No. 3 engine house, 6 delegates.
Sixth ward, No. 6 engine house, 8 delegates.
Seventh ward, No. 4 engine house, 13 delegates.
Eighth ward, booth at intersection of Pearl, Wheeler and Grant sts., 12 delegates.
Barberton, Mayor's office, 8 delegates.
Cuyahoga Falls, City hall, 5 delegates.
Bath township, usual place, 1 delegate.
Boston township, usual place, 2 delegates.
Copley township, usual place, 2 delegates.
Coventry township, Town hall, 3 delegates.
Franklin township, usual place, 5 delegates.
Green township, usual place, 3 delegates.
Hudson township, usual place, 3 delegates.
Northfield township, usual place, one delegate.
Norton township (outside Barberton) usual place, 3 delegates.
Portage township, usual place, 2 delegates.
Richfield township, usual place, 1 delegate.
Springfield township, usual place, 4 delegates.
Stow township, usual place, 2 delegates.
Tallmadge township, usual place, 2 delegates.
Twinsburg township, usual place, 2 delegates.

The caucuses will be open at 7 o'clock p.m. and remain open one hour. At said caucuses there shall be chosen in such manner as the caucus shall decide, one committeeman from each voting precinct in such ward or township, except in such wards or townships where committeemen were chosen at the caucuses held in the spring.

All persons who voted for James Kilbourne, for Governor, in 1901, or who pledge their support to the nominees of the Democratic State ticket at this coming election shall be entitled to vote at said caucuses.

W. E. SNYDER, Chairman.
H. E. ANDRESS, Secretary.

Franklin Caucus.

The caucus of the Democrats of Franklin township will be held at Clinton, Friday evening, June 13, at the hour specified in the call of the Democratic Executive committee.

JACOB BREITENSTINE,
C. W. WARLEY,
Committeemen.

Springfield Caucus.

The Democrats of Springfield township are hereby notified to meet in caucus at the Town Hall, Friday evening, June 13, to select delegates to the County convention, and transact such other business as may come before it.

O. J. SWINEHART,
Committeeman.

By Their Crests, Perhaps.

She—So you have crossed the ocean sixty-four times. You must be getting used to it.

He—Yes, considerably. I have lately got so that I recognize over half the waves we meet.—Town and County.

Short and Informal.

"Have you had a housewarming in your new dwelling yet?"

"Yes; my wife fired the redheaded cook the other day."—Chicago Tribune.

In the adversity of our best friends we often find something which does not displease.—Rochefoucauld.